

The call began at 11:02 a.m. 24 parties participated.

Pam Urban-Morin, Department of Safety, Grants Management Unit, hosted the call. Perry Plummer, Director of HSEM was also on the call assisting. Fallon Reed, HSEM, assisted as moderator of the call. Susan Glover, Grants Management Unit, was also on the call.

Pam stated that this call is the first of two outreach calls for the 2016-2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program. Pam explained the format of the call was for a broad overview of the grant process to be explained and then questions could be answered at the end of the call. She also explained that on the Dept of Safety website there is a Grants section and under the 2016-2017 Homeland Grant section the application, reference materials and notes from the calls will also be available.

Homeland Security federal office has changed the grant process a bit in that they now want to approve the local projects in advance of awarding the state funding. Therefore this is causing both 2016 & 2017 grant applications to have to be processed at the same time. The exact amount of the 2017 award is unknown at this time, however we will estimate the award based on the last few award years. We are anticipating an estimated \$3,734,500 per year.

The timeline has been shortened a bit in order to speed up award issuance, allow for more time for EHP assessments and other lengthy projects to be completed within the grant time period. July 1<sup>st</sup> application were released, August 5<sup>th</sup> at noon is the deadline for all applications to be emailed to the GMU office. You should receive an email confirmation within 24 business hours of sending your application in.

The process is similar to past years, an electronic application is available and should be emailed to the GMU office when completed. The application has been merged so it is just one document this year. There are a few new options on the application, one includes the option of notifying the grant committee if you prefer to have funding through the 2016 or 2017 program (or both if a phased project). In the past there was a 1 in 5 chance of being awarded. By completing 2 grant awards in one application the chances could be increased by 50% of being awarded a grant. Please keep in mind that the 2017 funding will not be available until approximately the fall of 2017.

Perry Plummer explained that HSEM has field representatives assigned to all community and State Agency and are available to help with application guidance, they can contact Pam or myself if there are any questions that they can not answer. If anyone is unable to reach or locate who their field representative is you may call Perry on his cell at 603-419-0255. Field

Representatives can assist with the application process as they are not involved in the scoring process at all. Keep in mind that scoring is based on the score sheets that you can find on the website and all sections of the application need to be completed as you could lose a lot of points due to a missed section or a section left blank. The performance period for these two grants is expected to be 3 years. Some grants in the past years were only 2 years so keep this in mind when submitting reimbursement documents for those grants, they are not all 3 years. Applying for a project in phases is ok as the feds will not give extensions if you can not complete your project within the 3 year time period. Please make sure to take into account any permits, engineering needs and/or EHP requirements that need to be met.

Pam reminded everyone that on the website you will also find the Authorized Equipment Listing which outlines any restrictions.

Perry stated that if you have any eligibility questions feel free to contact our offices prior to putting together the application. All AEL items are determined by the feds and are not flexible, if they are listed as restricted items they will not be considered.

Pam reminded everyone to keep in mind that the purpose of this grant is Anti-Terrorism and recovery from terrorism related incidents. Sustainment is included, for instance if you have previously grant purchased equipment that is needing maintenance that could be approved. There are no set aside funds dedicated towards maintenance items this year, however HazMat has successfully received grants for maintenance programs. With the understanding that many communities need radio upgrades, keep in mind that radio applications for an independent community are rarely approved and score low. The grant does not have enough funding to provide for a statewide radio upgrade at this time. Make sure the applications relate to the state strategy and FIRA.

Perry also recommended speaking with your field representatives regarding small project needs as EMPG also has grant funds that might be able to be used. There could be match requirements so make sure to inquire.

Pam reviewed that there are no significant changes to the grant process other than 2 years being done at once this year. The total award summary, grant committee listing, NEPA guidance and AEL are all available online. Please do not spend time on the NEPA until after you are awarded a grant as the process can be time consuming.

Perry reminded everyone to keep in mind the time frame considerations. These grants are 3 year grants from the time we are awarded the funding.

Pam will open the call to anyone that has questions and/or any committee members that have been through the process in the past that might have any recommendations or helpful hints to get through the process.

Question #1 Justin Kates EMD Nashua – In regards to the Fire Depts, When will the HazMat grants be available to apply for?

Pam stated that after the state is awarded the funds this fall the applications will be made available.

Perry asked if it is the same for SWAT grants?

Pam explained that the SWAT program is handled differently .

Perry noted that HSEM will also attend the tactical office meeting and explain the process when it is ready.

Pam explained that set aside funds like HazMat and SWAT are handled differently than the open competitive process.

Question #2 – Michael Pearl – Central NH Special Ops – Asked if it was worth applying for an Incident Command Vehicle? Are they allowed for this grant application process?

Pam stated that the Presidential Directive (that is also available online) identifies significant restrictions and separate approvals are needed for these types of items. There have been items of this type approved in the past, however the grant committee must defer to this list and the additional requirements that are now in place. Page 3-7 also outline the requirements that are needed.

Question #3 – Fred Bretton – EMT, Surry. We are a small town with no commercial infrastructure, can't meet the prerequisites listed on the application. Are there any other funding sources for basic needs of the community?

Pam is not aware of any through the Homeland Grant Program at this time. Field Reps might be able to identify other grant options that could assist with other projects. Perry asked if he had contact with his field rep. Fred explained that he has and is working with EMPG right now. Fred wanted to see if we could provide feedback to the feds requesting lessening the restrictions. Perry said that communication with the DHS office is ongoing and he will make sure to pass on his request.

Question #4 – Robin Irving, Northumberland PD. Kevlar vests seem to be included however I was told recently by the GMU office that depending on what they were used for that they might not be? Can you clarify?

Pam explained that routine uses of vests is not covered, there are some tactical team uses that may be included though. Recommended the COPS grant program through NH DOJ office, contact person is Tom Kaemfer as they do have a grant that allowed for this type of item with partial reimbursement.

Question #5 – Keith Brown, Carroll County Sheriffs Office asked how to identify if they have a phased project or need 2 years worth of funding?

Pam explained that on the application there is a spot that asks if they only want to be funded within the 2016 or 2017 grant year. Make a note on the application when filling it out that you are able to complete the project in phases if you can, keeping in mind that you would have to find where the functional break is between the funding years.

Perry also explained that they could fill out 2 applications if they wanted.

Pam thanked everyone for their participation and for taking the time to call in. Highly recommend going through the FAQ's on the website as they might answer a question you might have.

Perry also noted that everyone is welcome to call in for the second call tomorrow evening as they may hear someone ask a question that might pertain to something they are doing and might help them through the application process.

Pam thanked Fallon for facilitating the call. The next call will be held tomorrow evening at 6:30pm.